

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
**NEPA DETERMINATION**

**RECIPIENT:** Obermeyer Hydro Accessories, Inc.**STATE:** CO**PROJECT TITLE** : Cost Effective Small Scale Pumped Storage Configuration**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number**  
DOE-FOA-0001455**Procurement Instrument Number**  
DE-EE0008014**NEPA Control Number**  
GFO-0008014-001**CID Number**  
GO8014

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination**

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Obermeyer Hydro Accessories, Inc. to design a cost effective, small-scale, adjustable speed, pumped storage hydro (AS-PSH) system optimized for U.S. energy storage requirements. The proposed project would be divided into two Budget Periods (BP), with a down-select between the two budget periods. This NEPA review is for BP1 only.

BP1 would involve scalability analyses, cost assessments, and feasibility work to be completed at Obermeyer's facilities in Wellington, CO. BP1 activities would be limited to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would require no physical materials beyond standard office supplies and computer equipment.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined activities associated with Budget Period 1 fit within the class of action(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. All activities associated with BP1 of this proposal are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Budget Period 2 activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 1 activities

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Water Power Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord, April 5, 2017

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically  
Signed By

Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/6/2017

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

☐ Field Office Manager review required

**NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

- ☐ Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- ☐ Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature:

Field Office Manager

Date: